



MEDIA RELEASE

MORE INFORMATION ON LEDBETTER BEACH CLOSURE

SANTA BARBARA, CA – December 3, 2012

The City of Santa Barbara received a phone call at 8:10 a.m. this morning from a local resident reporting that the sewer manhole near her house had been overflowing since noon yesterday. City staff responded and cleaned the line clearing a root blockage and stopping the spill by 8:30 a.m. However, given the time between when the resident noticed the spill and when it was reported, staff are estimating that 6,600 gallons of sewage were spilled. The section of sewer main where the spill occurred had been recently rehabilitated and lined with a continuous plastic liner. Subsequent closed circuit television inspection of the sewer main revealed that roots causing the blockage had grown into the main from a private lateral.

Water from the spill flowed down Luneta Plaza into a storm drain inlet at the west end of the street. From there it flowed in the storm drain to the point at Ledbetter where it discharged down the cliffs to the ocean. To prevent public contact with the untreated sewage, the beach at Ledbetter was closed. It is expected to remain closed until water quality tests show it is safe.

Although staff conduct regular checks of the sewer system, there are over 7,000 manholes in the City and we are reliant on the public to notify us of sewage spills. The City has staff on-call at all times and the public is urged to report any suspected sewage spills as quickly as possible. During regular business hours people should call 564-5413. After hours, nights and weekends please call 963-4286.

LEDBETTER BEACH CLOSED DUE TO SEWAGE SPILL

The City of Santa Barbara, Public Works Department has issued a **"BEACH CLOSED"** notice today at Ledbetter Beach in response to a spill of untreated sewage. The closure will continue until testing reveals it is safe.

The spill involved approximately 6,600 gallons of sewage and occurred on the 1100 Block of Luneta Plaza. The untreated sewage flowed into an adjacent storm drain that eventually discharges at Ledbetter Beach. As a result, Ledbetter Beach has been closed to recreational water contact. The affected area has been posted with signs warning the public to avoid contact with the water until sample results indicate the water is safe for recreational use. Contact with sewage contaminated water increases the risk for certain types of illnesses.

In addition, the public should wait until at least 10 days to harvest shellfish in the affected area. Because they are filter feeders, shellfish from contaminated waters represent an elevated risk of disease if consumed.

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